

**STATEMENT OF FCC CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN ON
THE DEPARTURE OF COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE**

I would like to thank Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate for her service to the FCC and recognize her commitment and dedication to public service. Commissioner Tate's good nature and distinctive personality will be missed by those of us who have had the pleasure to serve with her. Commissioner Tate's presence brightened the Commission Meeting Room on meeting days and her smile raised the spirits of everyone she encountered as she traveled around the country and the world representing the Commission.

Based on her experience as an effective state commissioner, Commissioner Tate demonstrated strong leadership during her tenure as Chair of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, and the Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations. As Chair, she led the effort to address universal service and jurisdictional separations, the two critical components of the telecommunications framework set forth by Congress. Commissioner Tate embraced the difficult task of trying to reach consensus between federal and state members on these very technical and complex issues.

I am also personally grateful to Commissioner Tate for the efforts she made in being a tireless advocate on behalf of the interests of children and families. It has been a pleasure to serve with Debi on the FCC and I value all the contributions she has made to the Commission during her time here. Debi and her family have my thanks for the sacrifices they have made for public service during her tenure at the Commission and my best wishes for happiness and success in all of their future endeavors.